blood samples which, however, were not detected in conformity test by Gas Chromotograph coupled with Mass Spectrometer (GC-MS) analysis. IIBT has clarified that these chromatograms proved to be artifacts/false positive signals, as the confirmatory tests with GC-MS on these samples did not confirm to Endosulfan moiety.

Drought in Uttaranchal

†1042. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central study team has assessed the situation of unprecedented drought in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the total estimate with regard to loss suffered due to drought in the State;

(c) whether State Government have sought any assistance to deal with this situation;

(d) if so, the details with regard to assistance sought; and

(e) the financial assistance provided by the Central Government so far, under the various heads to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) In May, 2004, the Government of Uttaranchal had declared parts of 8 districts in the State as drought affected. In response to the State Government's request for Central assistance of Rs. 411.87 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the wake of drought, a Central team had visited the State in June, 2004 for assessment of the situation. This was considered by the High Level Committee (HLC), in its meeting held on 14th July, 2004 and the HLC approved Rs. 3.24 crores, subject to adjustment of balance in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of the State, as determined by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.